

Mississippi Beekeeper/Farmer Survey



- **SURVEY CONDUCTED ONLINE USING SURVEY MONKEY**
- **DISTRIBUTION WAS THROUGH FARM BUREAU LIST SERVE AND THE MISSISSIPPI BEEKEEPER ASSOCIATION.**
- **BEEKEEPER – 68 RESPONSES (41.2%)**
- **FARMER – 97 RESPONSES (58.8%)**

Beekeeper Responses



- What is the relative size of your operation?

- 50 or less hives – 73.8% (48)
- 50-250 hives – 18.5% (12)
- 250-500 hives – 6.2% (4)
- 500 or more hives – 1.5% (1)

- How long have you been a beekeeper?

- 0-5 years – 46.9% (30)
- 5-10 years – 25% (16)
- 10-15 years – 4.7% (3)
- Over 15 years – 23.4% (15)

Beekeeper Responses cont.



- Over the last 18 months, has your awareness of the importance of pollinator health been enhanced?
 - Yes – 84.1% (53)
 - No – 15.9% (10)
- If yes, please indicate the source of information
 - MSU Extension Service – 83.3% (45)
 - Farm Bureau – 42.6% (23)
 - Bee related publications – 72.2% (39)
 - Other beekeepers – 53.7% (29)
 - Social Media – 22.2 % (12)
 - Other Ag Industry Associations - 9.3% (5)
 - National or local media sources – 29.6% (16)

Beekeeper Response cont.



- In your opinion, what is the most significant production problem for you as a beekeeper?
 - Varroa mite/viruses – 1.67
 - Small hive beetle – 2.44
 - Loss of forage – 3.20
 - Pesticide Exposure – 3.36
 - Unsure – 4.32
 - Theft/vandalism – 4.76

Beekeeper Response cont.



- If your bees are kept near/on row crop farms, do you utilize any of the cooperative standards in the MS Bee Stewardship Program with your farm host?
 - Yes – 30.6% (15)
 - No – 69.4% (34)
- Do you have other standing mitigation arrangements/measures to protect your bees from pesticides on the host farm?
 - Yes – 10.3% (4)
 - No – 89.7% (35)

Beekeeper Response Cont.



- Has the MS Bee Stewardship Program enhanced the dialogue between you and your farm host?
 - Yes – 34.1% (15)
 - No – 65.9% (29)

- Does your farm host take any precautions to reduce pesticide exposures to your bees?
 - Yes – 43.5% (20)
 - No – 56.5% (26)

Farmer Response



- Please indicate the commodities you produce.
 - Cotton – 35.5% (33)
 - Rice – 43.0% (40)
 - Corn – 68.8% (64)
 - Soybeans – 92.5% (86)
 - Milo – 39.8% (37)
- How long have you been engaged in farming?
 - 0-5 years – 3.2% (3)
 - 5-10 years – 7.4% (7)
 - 10-15 years – 12.8% (12)
 - Over 15 years – 76.6% (72)

Farmer Response Cont.



- Over the last 18 months, has your awareness of the importance of pollinator health been enhanced?
 - Yes – 97.8% (91)
 - No – 2.2% (2)
- Have you heard of the Mississippi Bee Stewardship Program?
 - Yes – 93.5% (86)
 - No – 6.5% (6)

Farmer Response Cont.



- Please indicate the source of this information.

○ MSU Extension Service –	76.7% (69)
○ Farm Bureau –	95.6% (86)
○ Ag Press/Publications –	66.7% (60)
○ Other farmers –	22.2% (20)
○ Social media –	23.3% (21)
○ Other Ag Industry Associations -	31.1% (28)
○ National or local media sources –	24.4% (22)

Farmer Response Cont.



- Do you host bees on any portion of your farm?
 - Yes – 42.4% (39)
 - No – 57.6% (53)
- If yes, do you utilize any of the cooperative standards of the Mississippi Bee Stewardship Program on your farm?
 - Yes – 61.1% (22)
 - No – 30.6% (11)
 - N/A – 8.3% (3)
- Has the Stewardship Program enhanced dialogue between you and your beekeeper?
 - Yes – 66.7% (24)
 - No – 13.9% (5)
 - N/A – 19.4% (7)

Farmers Response Cont.



- Do you discuss hive placement with your beekeeper?
 - Yes – 66.7% (24)
 - No – 16.7% (6)

- Do you, or would you modify insecticide applications to better protect bees on your farm?
 - Apply early in the morning – 58.8% (20)
 - Apply later in the afternoon – 61.8% (21)
 - Ensure wind velocity is low – 82.4% (28)
 - Utilize less toxic pesticides – 23.5% (8)
 - Avoid spraying during bloom – 5.9% (2)
 - Nothing – 8.8% (3)

Farmers Response Cont.



- How do you typically apply insecticides?
 - Ground – 25.3% (22)
 - Air – 9.2% (8)
 - Both – 65.5% (57)
- Have you ever discussed insecticide applications in regard to protecting bees with
 - Farm Workers – 45.1% (32)
 - Ground applicators – 45.1% (32)
 - Aerial applicators – 74.6% (53)
 - Consultants/scouts – 59.2% (42)
 - Surrounding farmers – 38% (27)